GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:178
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
CRASH OF PRIVATE HELICOPTER
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a helicopter of a private company crashed at a village near Lonavala, Mumbai on September 22, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the DG of Civil Aviation have conducted inquiry into the cause of the crash;

(c) if so, the number of persons killed in the crash and whether the helicopters owned by individuals/companies are lacking proper safety norms; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that proper safety norms are followed by owners of helicopters?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a), (b) and (c):- Yes, Sir. Five persons, including the crew members, received fatal injuries in the crash of the helicopter belonging to Million Air at Petshapur near Lonavala on 22.09.2002. The Inspector of Accidents, appointed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), is investigating this accident.
(d):- The DGCA ensures, on a continuous basis, strict compliance of safety norms by operators, including helicopter operators by way of safety audits. The safety audit covers all essential areas including engineering, operations, quality control department etc. In addition, spot checks on maintenance activities are also carried out by the DGCA.